
U.S. Senate
Republican Policy
Committee

Don Nickles, Chairman
Doug Badger, Staff Director



U.S. House
Republican
Conference

John Boehner, Chairman
Barry Jackson, Executive Director

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Environment Not Jeopardized by the Balanced Budget Act

The President cited, as one of his top reasons for vetoing H.J. Res. 115, the funding bill that would have prevented the partial "shutdown" of the federal government, his concern that the Republicans' budget would "deeply cut" environmental protection. He continued: "If America must close down access to quality education, a clean environment and affordable health care for our seniors, in order to keep the government open, then that price is too high." [see Congressional Record, Veto Message from the President, H. Doc. No. 104-134, H 12238-9].

The President's pledge to save Americans from "extreme cuts" in the environment (he mentioned the word "environment" no less than five times in his short veto message), is obviously a continuation of his campaign theme that only he (and his re-election) can save the environment and public health from evil Republican policies. In so doing, he is misleading the American public into believing that the Balanced Budget Act guts health, safety and other long-standing environmental laws.

Cut EPA Bureaucracy, Not Environmental Protection

Neither the Environmental Protection Agency budget nor any environmental protection programs are touched in the Balanced Budget Act. However, the conference committee on H.R. 2099, the VA, HUD and Independent Agencies Appropriation Bill for FY 1996, is contemplating cuts to EPA's budget of approximately 15 percent from FY 1995 funding levels. These cuts for EPA are hardly "extreme":

- ▶ **Proposed Cuts in EPA FY 1996 Funding Focus on Superfund and "Pork":** The conferees are considering agreement on an overall budget number very close or even higher than the Senate figure of \$5.66 billion for FY 1996. The Senate figure is virtually the same funding level as FY 1995, with two reductions — \$300 million from Superfund (universally acknowledged as currently wasting taxpayers' money) and elimination of over \$700 million in wastewater facility porkbarrel projects funded by the last Congress.
- ▶ **EPA Not Singled Out for Cuts:** The overall EPA budget cuts are similar percentage-wise to cuts for other areas in the federal government in FY 1996 spending bills.
- ▶ **EPA's Growth Has Been Out of Control:** EPA has almost doubled in size in the past 20 years to over 19,000 employees (not counting contract employees), and its